appreciation for President Musharraf's support to the U.S. led war against terrorism.

(b) It is not for Government to comment on U.S. assessment of President Musharraf's cooperation with the U.S. efforts in combating terrorism. He has displayed so such commitment on bringing an end to cross border terrorism against India. President Bush stated after his meeting with President Musharraf on 24 June 2003 that they discussed the need to address extremism and cross border infiltration.

Indo-US agreement on Non-Extradition Treaty

3093. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA have signed an agreement to prevent the extradition of Indian and American Nationals accused of human rights violations to third countries;

(b) if so, whether this agreement is considered a significant steps it secures for India an importantally in its argument upholding the sanctity of National Judicial Systems over multilateral ones like the International Criminal Court in Rome or the International Court of Justice in the Hague; and

(c) if so, the other main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India and USA have signed an agreement under which neither country shall surrender or transfer or extradite nationals of the other country to international tribunals without the express consent of the other country, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties. The agreement is yet to come into force.

(b)Yes.

(c) The Agreement provides that neither country shall surrender persons of the other country (including current or former Government officials, employees, contractors, military personnel or nationals) to any international tribunal, or to any other entity or a third country for the

purpose of surrender to any international tribunal, without the express consent of the other country, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties. Further, neither country shall even cooperate with any third party or country to effect the surrender of persons of the other country to any international tribunal.

Kolkata-Dhaka bus Service

3094. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service soon as per the agreement between India and Bangladesh reached two years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the difficulties faced by both the sides for the delay in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Kolkata-Dhaka bus service was started in 1999.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Refund of social security payments

3095. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether India has asked USA to refund social security payments;

(b) if so, the response of US Government in this regard; and

(c) the total amount of payments to be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India has offered to enter into a Social Security Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with the U.S. As per preliminary estimates, Indian professionals contribute about US $ 500 million annually to the US Social Security Programme. So far no agreement could be reached on the subject.